

KUDOS and CONGRATS



Parris Island CVIC Marines Monopolize Local Boards

On 21 Nov 02 PFC Chad Leddy 4641 won the H&S Bn's **Meritorious Lance Corporal** board and was promoted on 2 December 2002. PFC Leddy had been aboard the Depot for only thirty days when he received a letter of appreciation for his outstanding performance in documenting a retirement ceremony. Approximately one week later he took the lead photo that will appear on the front cover of the Depot's Almanac, which will be distributed throughout the Eastern Recruiting Region.

LCpl Tyler Warren 4641/4671 won the **Marine of the Quarter** for H&S Bn's 1st Qtr FY 03. LCpl Warren won the honor pitted against strong competition from fellow 4641's (LCpl Mediavilla and Sarabia). CVIC Marines have held the title of either NCO of the Qtr or Marine of the Qtr since the last Qtr of FY 2001.

Congratulations LCpl's Leddy and Warren!



Quantico Videographer Meritoriously Promoted



Cpl Andrew J. Revalos was meritoriously promoted to his present rank on December 2nd, 2002. Cpl Revalos' motivation, initiative and professionalism helped him take the Ops Co Meritorious Corporal board, and the subsequent H&S Bn board. Cpl Revalos currently serves as a combat videographer for the Commander's Channel Q-TV, Ch-49 Marine Corps Base, Quantico VA. **Congratulations Cpl Revalos!**



Marine is the Distinguished Honor Graduate at the Very First Digital Multi-media Course (DMC)

Sgt William Greeson earned the Distinguished Honor Graduate title at the first DMC to be conducted at DINFOS. Sgt Greeson is currently assigned to the Pentagon's Joint Combat Camera Center where he works as a photo editor. Sgt Greeson is the only Comcam Marine at JCCC. His duties include managing the DOD's imagery website (<http://dodimagery.afis.osd.mil/>), receiving imagery from deployed units and building daily PowerPoint presentations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Sgt Greeson states "Please send imagery to wgreeson@hq.afis.osd.mil"

AWESOME JOB Sgt Greeson!!!!





From the Desk of the Occfld Sponsor
Major Jerome Core

Greetings and a most prosperous New Year to all!!

This year we have refined our focus with the expressed intent to further institutionalize our processes and procedures; to forward staff to reengineered billets; to further improve our capabilities and abilities toward mission accomplishment; to take the next step toward establishing an equal funding ground for all activities, missions and requirements. We can only accomplish these goals with your continued support and expertise. As you address and/or submit FY2003 platforms, issues or concerns, or address those platforms submitted by VIM, we welcome and anticipate your support; the same support that has helped us, as a community, make 2002 an accomplished year!

To springboard off of your successes of 2002, our first focus for 2003 is to gain and exploit the authority to begin the staffing of critical billets this FY. A meeting with Headquarters Marine Corps Manpower (MMOA, MMEA) to gain authority to forward staff billets at the company grade officer level and enlisted level was successful. The outcome of the meeting authorizes us, based on an 05/10 staffing goal model and manpower PCS guidelines, to forward staff critical billets that are based on official responses from PAC, LANT, MEFs, DIVs and MEUs. With this authority, expect moves of officers and enlisted this summer. The officer command slate has been determined and the enlisted slate is being designed. Once published, MSgt Mattox will stand ready to answer all questions via land line or email at <http://www.mattocksva@tecom.usmc.mil/>.

As stated in the last Flash, there are initiatives underway involving PP&O (imagery transmission from the battlefield), IO (Information Operations and PsyOps) and repro (Tactical Imagery Production (TIPS) for the OpFors), that will when finalized, provide a catalyst that will refine our real world requirements, capabilities and mission requirements.

(a) The SIPR site in support of imagery transmission from the battlefield has been installed in the Imagery Management Unit. Transmission funds have been set aside based on OEF funding guidance. VIM is waiting for the equipment to arrive and clearances to be finalized.

(b) The IO Director, has submitted the UNS to the CDS and has gained approval as a Program of Record (POR). The next step is to develop COAs that will address DOTMLPF. This applies to us as we have the skill sets required, both officer and enlisted to support the production pillar of Information Operations. More to come as these initiatives become established Programs of Record .

(c) TIPS has been approved by the MROC and is in production. MCSC has lead. Fielding is expected during Feb/March.

Heads up....last edition I sent you all the latest info pertaining the MCAT issues. Today, I received an e-mail via one of our own, Head MCAT ComCam team, none other than our Capt Grow. The bottom line is that the MCAT/SCAR will be standing up again in the very near future. What this means to you is that officers and enlisted will be globally sourced to fill these critical billets in support of OEF and the war on terrorism. ***Hats off to Quantico, JVIA, Yuma, MCRD SD and those commands that were key players in the first Afghanistan evolution, Job well done.*** As required, we will be soliciting input and participation from each of you to stand up our comcam cell. I do not anticipate the numbers that we sent to Afghanistan, anticipate 2 officers and 2 teams (1 comcam and 1 imagery management), VIM will provide imagery management support. Capt Smith will be in contact when requirements are identified.

I am excited about where we are headed as a community. Your issues, support and most of all, execution of your vision of things to come is my motivation.

V/R Major Core

NEWS FROM THE FLEET

Pendleton Marines Document Javelin Demonstration submitted by PFC Van Noble, CVIC Campend

On November 15th, 2002, Marines from 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment gave a live demonstration of the new Javelin Weapon System. The Javelin is a medium range, shoulder fired, anti-tank weapon. Each round costs \$105,000. At roughly the cost of 234 PFC paychecks, a live firing of the Javelin is a rare thing.

The Javelin is set to replace the Dragon Missile as the Marine Corps choice tank buster. Unlike the wire-guided Dragon the Javelin is a "fire and forget" missile. Utilizing cutting edge technology, it uses a laser to guide and track itself, leaving the Marine who fired the missile free to take cover and not have to worry about guiding it to the target. The Javelin also has two attack modes: Direct and Top Attack. Direct would be used for targets such as bunkers, buildings or helicopters and top attack would be for destroying tanks.



Photo and video Marines from MCB Camp Pendleton and 1st Marine Division were there in full force, scurrying around setting up various tripods and other gear as the Range Safety Officer was screaming and yelling at everything within a 50ft radius. The video section of MCB was able to set up a DRMO-bound camera in the back-blast area for some very unique footage and Combat

Camera videographers were able place a camera in a tank adjacent to the target tank down range to catch some great impact shots.

Around eleven o'clock the countdown began. The fire command was given and everyone watched in anticipation for the missile to deploy, but nothing happened. 5 seconds later...still nothing, after about 10 seconds there was a lot of activity around the firing line and the Range Safety Officer started screaming again. Everyone started wondering if maybe the missile was a dud, when all of the sudden, **WHOOSH!** The missile took off climbing high into the sky before dropping directly on top of the target and exploding. Well, almost directly on top of the target. The missile missed the target tank by about a foot, coming down a little short and sliding underneath the tank instead.

Both the videographers and photographers got some very nice footage and photos of the demonstration. The money shot was provided by videographer LCpl Chris Bodily, MCB Camp Pendleton, who with his Sony DV camera was able to follow the missile from when it left the tube, all the way to it's peak and decline, to finally it's impact. Combat Camera also recorded great impact footage from the camera they had placed down range.

Even though the Javelin did not hit its intended target the way it was supposed to, it was a great experience to be able to witness and document this new weapon system in action. With a range of 2,500 meters and a reload time of only 20 seconds, the Javelin is something that will greatly help Marines in combat. As the Marine Corps and technology advance, you can be sure the Javelin will be the first of many scientifically advanced weapons Marines will use to win the battles of the future.

Photo Caption: Cpl. Robert Zwierzchowski an anti-tank assault man with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, fires the M-98A1 Javelin Medium Anti-Armor System at a stationary target, assisted by Lance Cpl. Isaac Reyes at Camp Pendleton, CA. Photo by: LCpl C. Bodily

Northern Fuji Artillery Relocation 03-1 submitted by Cpl Kunda R.W. 3d MarDiv

"Stand by. Fire!" echoed over the radio just before a deafening boom pounded through the air, shaking the ground.



Camp Fuji boasts the only training area in Japan that allows live firing of long-range weapons and artillery. Hosting many units throughout the year, Camp Fuji aids in maintaining combat readiness, and ensures units are well prepared for cold weather climates.

From November 15th to December 15th, Camp Fuji accommodated 3rd Battalion 12th Marines and 3rd Battalion 11th Marines Kilo Battery. Myself, Cpl Robert Kunda 4641 and LCpl Daevid Brown 4671 from 3D Marine Division Combat Camera documented the unit for its month stay. Our mission was to capture

still and motion picture imagery of the unit's training exercise for after action briefing and historical documentation.

A rocky trip, we encountered a few problems on the way. The weather wasn't ideal, raining most of the time, but we were lucky enough to have a few days when the clouds would melt and the sun would shine. The largest obstacle we faced was transportation. We had no vehicle of our own, or a driver for transportation to and from the training area. To counter this, we acquired rides with the Battalion Chaplain's driver, and the chow truck. With a little planning and communication, we managed to return with our needed images, along with a unit that successfully completed its training.



Training with 3/12 we learned some very important lessons, mostly concerning logistics and prior planning. The biggest lesson was; "if you can't get to the action you can't complete your mission".

33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps



Gen Michael W. Hagee 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, poses for his official portrait at Headquarters Marine Corps photo lab. Sgt Branden P. O'Brien, photographer at HQMC photo lab makes minor adjustments before taking the photo.
VIRIN: 021219-M-7280S-006 Photo by: LCpl Ricahrd D. Stephens

Beaufort CVIC Produces 30-minute News Show submitted by Sgt Runyan, Combat Videographer

A few years ago, the Commandant mandated that Marine Corps installations with broadcast capabilities provide local programming. In our effort to carry out the mandate, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort produced a show called "Fighter Town News". The show lasted approximately two years, but because of personnel shortages and equipment problems, the show was discontinued.

In September 2002, despite the continued shortage of personnel, another show was planned for production. With equipment from throughout the Marines donated from various CVICs and TECOM, the production of the new show was made possible.

We set out to create a show for a target audience ranging from Private to General and a sub audience of family members and the local community. The show had to be concise, keep the viewer's attention and provide information for both service members and civilians.

The production had to be undertaken while continuing to fulfill our standard taskers, such as producing training films, setting up for Change of Commands and maintaining an Audio Visual Library. The addition of a thirty-minute show was a staggering undertaking to say the least.

During the initial planning, we had to consider the type of show we would actually be producing. We knew if we did the show like an info-mercial, no one would watch it. We tried to follow some of the standard practices in television to keep it interesting.



In the end, "The Ready Room" became a show comprised of spots covering squadrons, units, Marines and Sailors aboard the Air Station. The show contains specific sections on health and fitness, military uniform tips and local area attractions that service members and their families might not know about.

In preparing for the show, we rebuilt our stage to create the

look of a ready room in the studio. The entire production from start to finish has involved only two other Marines. Cpl. Bohanner and Lance Cpl. Bention built the stage, did the interviews and edited the entire show. What is significant in this accomplishment was that Public Affairs Marines were only called in to help anchor the show.

We know that our field is always changing and in order to preserve it, we must continue to learn and improve what we do. I believe our field is proving our diversity with the production of these types of television shows for the Marine Corps community. For more information on the "Ready Room" show, please feel free to contact us.

Integration Does Not Have To Be a Nightmare submitted by GySgt J. W. Riggs, MCB Camp Lejeune

In last month's Flash I discussed that we here at LCTV 10, MCB Camp Lejeune were installing a multi-zone system. Well it is in and jaws are dropping. Just this morning the Base CG came to our studio and went live on air to discuss this upgrade, and stayed for the show. He is tremendously proud of what is happening here and wanted to tell the Marines first hand.

With this new technology came new hurdles. Not wanting to fall into the old trap of, "we'll figure it out later," we did all the work up front. This task was not easy, and we had to rely on a lot of other people's expertise. If you are considering installing one of

these systems, or something along these lines there are a few things I would like to share:

Contact your G-6 section and determine what they have, i.e. server speed, bandwidth, how many domains on base, can they communicate with each other, size of server you have, and various other technical questions. Have a G-6 rep there from the first meetings with the vendor of the product. An added bonus that happened for us is that our G-6 people liked our product so much that **they are funding** to have our show put over the LAN. Yes, you read right, we'll be broadcasting our station over the LAN 24 hours a day. One other computer note to think about is as soon as funding is acquired start filling out the NMCI waiver. Your G-6 rep can help on this document. It is easy and since G-6 is involved it runs real smooth.

Speaking of funding, if you receive end of the year funds to purchase this system, you cannot use these funds for the next FY maintenance contracts. They must come from the next FY funds. So you'll have to pay for that first quarter. Have a POC from the contracting office also attend your meetings. Having everybody working in tandem helps smooth the waters, and heads problems off before they begin. They are all great allies to have on your side.

Brief the command. What I mean by this is brief the other major commanders of your intention. By doing this you build enthusiasm around your project. Identify the requirements of the commanders and work that into your integration. This also builds awareness that you are here to support.

One final note, before the first delivery of your product, have a conference call with all parties to consider any last minute problems and deal with them on the spot. This also builds unity within the team you have created and reduces confusion and stress. By doing these things your integration will go very smooth and you can get down to the business of training on your new system. Have a G-6 Marine sit in on the training as well so if something does go wrong they can add assistance.

Ours went flawlessly and the vendor told us that this was the smoothest integration they've ever had. Believe it or not Commands already want to jump on the wagon to help us fund other issues. I was taught to fish in many funding pools and at this time all my poles are in the water. If you have any technical questions please email me at riggsjw@lejeune.usmc.mil. Be safe and always buckle up.

Same World, Different Channels submitted By Capt Ovalle, OIC LCTV 10, MCB Camp Lejeune

As a new Public Affairs Officer, I was excited to get the title of, "OIC of LCTV-10". I didn't really have a clue of what to expect and did not know what was in store for me. I was about to walk into one of the best shops I've ever had the opportunity to be a part of.

I also walked into a battle between the 4600 field and the 4300 field that had been going on since well before I walked through the door. Because of circumstances out of our control (and too far gone to shake the off dust), LCTV-10 decided to move forward rather stew in the resentment left by others.

The Marines of LCTV-10 have had one incredible opportunity to cross train with a field closely related to their own, rather a 46 or a 43. And what makes me proud is to see the Marines jump in and take this job by the horns and produce stunning results.

Just recently, with Gunnery Sgt. Joseph W. Riggs', Broadcast Engineer, LCTV-10, expertise, we were able to acquire a multi-zone, interactive broadcast system, which

allows information to be updated instantaneously from the originator, as well as improved diagnostics that allow for minimal down time. And with the assistance of the County of Onslow, the City of Jacksonville and Time/Warner, we are able to reach the 70 percent of our Marines who live **off base**, to include **family, retired Marines** and **"Civilian Marines"**, alike.

What does all this mean to a 43 in a 46 world? It means that we are on the cutting edge of technology for the Marine Corps. It means that we are currently doing things that no one else in the Corps is doing. It means that, with the support of two fields working together, the support of the community and a major cable company, more can be accomplished than ever before. And it means that, with open minds and fresh blood, we can change things, but only as a team.

LCTV-10 also produces the first-ever Marine Corps related daily show, *The Morning Report*. Gunnery Sgt. Yolanda M. Mayo, Production Chief, LCTV-10, has spearheaded this project. We go live on Monday mornings, and pre-record each afternoon for the following days show. We cover Marine events, MCCS events, as well as community events. We produce a well-rounded show that involves many aspects of the military community and the community that lives right out side our gates.

What does all this mean to a 46 in a 43 world? Most importantly, it means we deliver relevant and timely information to our Marines both on and off base. It means that we utilize ALL of our talents on the show and behind the scenes. Cpl. John Heller, for instance, is our News Director for LCTV-10, a cameraman, a great NCO, is one of our "talents" on camera, and is ALSO a 46. It means that we are currently doing things that no one else in the Corps is doing. It means that, with the support of both MOS communities working together, more can be accomplished than ever before. And it means that, with open minds and fresh blood, we can change things, but only as a team.

There are valid reasons for both MOS's in the Marine Corps. There is reason enough to keep them separate to accomplish their missions. There is also need for a few Marines from each field to come together and work as team to better inform our Marines.

I've heard many people say that a Marine Corps television station, or network, for that matter, is not needed; that we are wasting money by continuing on this path. I cannot agree with that. Every single day we get replies back from a myriad of ranks, to include retired Marines and civilians on and off base, that say they like what they see, they like what we do and tune in to learn what is happening on and off base. More than ever before, Marines have a way to stay connected through their local Command Cable channel.

It's not about playing 24 hours-a-day vintage 1945 movies that are not really relevant to anything; it's about getting the "word" out to our Marines in a timely manner. It's about being there to turn to when our Marines are looking for information to assist in their daily lives and their careers. It's about being there for families while their Marines are deployed. The Command Cable station on base can be utilized far beyond its uses now and we, as a cooperative field of professionals, with a 43 and 46 balance, can deliver just that; a powerful, timely, relevant news source for our Marines.

The challenge is to not stop the progression of reaching our Marines. We have to continually think outside the box. This is the information age. It's our job to supply it to our Marines. We can't do it alone, we have to work together. I can be contacted by email at ovalletl@lejeune.usmc.mil.

Yuma CVIC Marines Free-fall submitted by SSgt Picklo and LCpl Underwood



Lance Corporals Keith Underwood, Larry Novelo and Samuel Ochuito from the Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma Arizona recently got a chance to take part in a freefall exercise at the Yuma Proving Grounds. Guided by Marine Corps freefall instructor MSgt Todd Smalenberg, from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne), Military Freefall School, the Marines fell from over 10,000 feet above the Arizona desert. The exercise enabled the Marines to get a first

hand look at what freefalling felt like as well as share their photographic and videography capabilities with the instructors. The training the Marines received better prepares them for possible similar operations in the future. This exercise opportunity arose when MSgt Smalenberg entered the Yuma CVIC for a promotion photograph. When asked why he hadn't gotten it done at YPG he stated the photo lab at MCAS Yuma was of a much more professional atmosphere.

"The morning was spent in safety briefs, emergency procedures, and equipment checks. MSgt Smalenberg went over every movement that would be made from the time we stepped into the plane. After a long, cold ride up to 10,000 feet the time to stand on the exiting ramp had come. We stood on the ramp for what seemed like forever with MSgt Smalenberg strapped to my back, then without warning the ground was rushing toward my face and the altimeter on my wrist quickly started toward a reading of zero. As soon as I started thinking about when the chute was supposed to open MSgt Smalenberg gave me the steering controls and landed us like a feather. After we were on the ground, and stripped off the jump gear, it then set in that I had just jumped out of a perfectly good airplane and I'd do it again in a heartbeat if I had the chance. It was one of the most exciting things I have done in my Marine Corps career yet."



Yuma CVIC Moves into New Digs

The Combat Visual Information Center recently moved its operations from buildings 506 & 508 to building 500 aboard the air station. The move was motivated by the effort to consolidate all sections of the CVIC under one roof. This allows for multimedia integration as well as unit cohesion. Upgrades to bldg 500 began in September 2002 with the addition of dropped ceilings, carpet, room dividers and studio blocks. The

Marines of the CVIC moved the equipment in the beginning of December and were completely operational shortly after.

Along with the new building, the Yuma CVIC also initiated the "Warrior Library" to assist in training Marines in the 4600 field. CVIC purchased several books to give the photographers, videographers and graphic illustrators a way to look at their daily jobs a little different. Some of the books include: Larry Burrows VIETNAM, Fourteenth edition of the Photo Journalism series, Photoshop 7 Bible, Creating Graphics for AVID Xpress DV 3.5, Corel Draw for Windows, and Photoshop 7 Down and Dirty Tricks. The Yuma CVIC is continually looking for more material to assist in training so if you come across some good reading, please let us know.



Submitted by MGySgt Stokes

I have initiated new for the year of 2003 a section of the Flash called the VI Chiefs' Corner. The visual information chiefs will contribute the blurbs and articles written each month across the Corps. Currently the total of our chiefs is twelve. That includes our master gunnery sergeants and master sergeants. Part of the reengineering plan is to designate the occupational field's gunnery sergeant as chiefs (4691s). Therefore, articles will appear that come from some of our outstanding gunnery sergeants.

In this edition I would like to contribute just a few things that I saw on the 2002 Reserve SNCO Promotion Selection Board. Most if not all you will be familiar with but remember that repetition increases retention.

Things to submit to the board:

- Cover Letter
- Photograph
- Copy of PME completion certificates
- Letters from individuals (other than your reporting senior or reviewing officer) to the board that strongly recommending your selection
- Copy of recent awards (personal decoration and MOS honors)
- Recent fitness reports that may not be in the system yet
- If you are soon retiring or getting out for some reason submit a letter requesting not to be selected.
- Anything you deem relevant-explain, don't complain.

During the upcoming VI Chiefs' Conference I hope to present a power-point brief of the Enlisted Promotion Selection Board process. Afterwards, look forward to a class from your VI chief or local command representative. I will be more than happy to answer questions that any of you; officers, SNCOs, NCOs or non-NCOs may have concerning the enlisted promotion process. The reserve board covers all of the active-duty board processes with the addition of a couple of reserve specific documents. A really good aspect of the reserve board is the viewing and casework of staff sergeant to sergeant

major selections. For further information and some insider tips I may be contacted at DSN 451-4795 or via email stokesjr@lejeune.usmc.mil

VI CHIEF CONFERENCE JANUARY 30-31, 2002

On January 30th and 31st of this year the visual information management chiefs are going to have their annual conference. This has come about by the motivation and planning of one hard-charging master sergeant and former MOS 4653, none other than Master Sergeant James L. Roberts. Last year he fought hard and long to start having these conferences. This year the conference will take place at Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona in California. We are inviting any gunnery sergeant sitting in a VI chiefs' billet to attend on an optional basis and only if they're local command can fund the TAD trip. We really want as many as the gunnery sergeants there as possible. Last year the input from GySgt McClellan (3rd MarDiv) and GySgt Matthews (29 Palms) was priceless. The word from MCSC is that their pockets are not deep enough to fund future 4691s i.e. Gunnys. Just as a side note, the chiefs that have received funds from MCSC are very appreciative.

If you read our first article you know that we currently have twelve visual information management chiefs. They have a combined total of over 280 years of experience. Mountains can be moved if all of that experience and know how is brought together and focused on a common goal! We want to invite the whole occupational field, active-duty and civilians, to provide input and possible agenda items to your local VI chief. We only have the two days for the conference but we can prioritize and deal with those most important issues.

The VI Chiefs wish everyone a blessed and very Happy New Year!

Notes from the OccFld 46 Specialist Capt R. D. Smith

Where are we headed?

I field many questions on where is the OccFld headed. I would encourage each of you (regardless of rank or position) to look at our future as, in the words of Capt Grow, BIG BLUE ARROWS. Our primary BIG BLUE ARROW is pointed in the direction that institutionalizes our occfld by focusing on mission requirements. We have already advanced this arrow forward by reorganizing our structure throughout the Marine Corps to best support our mission. This reorganization creates (for the first time in our history) command and control structure by establishing critical staff billets within the MARFOR and MEF headquarters. In addition, we have placed officers "within" the three pillars of the Marine Corps; Requirements, Training, and Acquisition. This reorganization changes the complexion of our officer Corps. We will shift from 3 officers in the operating forces to 9, of which 6 will primarily be staff officers.

Another BIG BLUE ARROW points in the direction of the warfighter and the operating forces. Our priority is to support the operating forces first and then organizations within the supporting establishment that directly impacts the training of the operating forces, and third, CVIC's that provide broad-based general support. In addition, and in support of the warfighters' garrison support requirement, each CVIC will once again

have a cross section of our skill sets (video, photo, graphics and in some cases reproduction). Many CVIC's today do not rate even one videographer or illustrator.

In support of the warfighter, in two years (2005) or less, we will stand up combat camera units at the Wing and FSSG headquarters, have SNCO's (Gunny's) and NCO's permanently assigned to the MEU's. The 1st and 2d Division will be plus'd up to 30 Marines to include for the first time ever, 4611's.

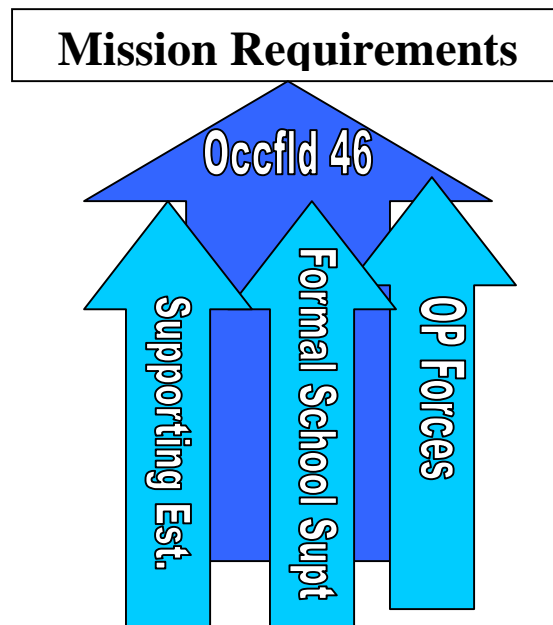
In addition, in 2005, all GySgt's will become VI Chiefs, MOS 4691. This will provide greater and equal opportunity for all four of our MOS's to make E-7, E-8 and E-9. In addition, this change will allow all 4600 Gunny's, regardless of MOS background, to serve on the MEU's. To properly prepare our Chief's, our Training Officer is in the beginning stages of developing a Combat Camera Chief's Course.

There is also a growing requirement, to create billets within the formal schools. This already includes new 4600 billets at Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools, Mountain Warfare Training Center, Marine Corps Engineer School, and the Marine Corps CommElec School. **These billets were not created by sacrificing our existing structure.** The commanders of these schools realized the need for 4600 skill sets and purposely gave up their own structure to create these billets. For the first time in many years, our field is growing vice being cut. This growth in direct support of training is in tune with the Commandant's philosophy that we "make Marines and win battles". We "make" Marines and "win" battles by conducting extensive training. It only makes sense that our community supports this effort with dedicated VI support.

These BIG BLUE ARROWS do not compete against but rather compliment each other. The important thing is that they all head in the same direction. Will they veer left and right slightly, YES, will they take hard left and right turns, NO. NO, because we are working within the system, not out of it.

In years past we "took everything out of hide" and the multiple directions we took as an occfld had little to do with "mission requirements". Today and in the future we will support requirements that have been validated by institutional processes.

So the answer to the question "where are we headed" is "FORWARD".



Notes from the Enlisted OccFld 46 Specialist Master Sergeant Mattocks

Greetings 4600 Marines,

As I take the baton from Master Sergeant Weatherington, I plan to charge into the future. A future where Gunnery Sergeants are 4691s and more that 60 billets are transferred to the operating forces. This transformation is called re-engineering! There are a few admin notes I would like to mention:

1. Congratulations to Cpls Murphy (4641) of Quantico, VA and Taylor (4671) of Yuma, AZ, as our FY 03 Syracuse selectees. The Corps is changing and these Marines have decided to take the initiative to apply, and compete. More variables are involved in the selection than you may be aware of such as talent, evaluations, persistence and timing, to name a few.
2. Marines, plan your careers and seek information from your SNCO's and Officers. If you are considering an officer program, secondary school, or duty station preference, be proactive. However, once you have orders, you should execute! Additionally, the Marine Corps has a specific number of re-enlistment allocations (boat spaces). There is hope for reenlistment, if you seek guidance from your leaders early.
3. The VI Directory and FY03 school call-up is now available on the VIM website.

Lastly, I look forward to meeting most of you, as Master Sergeant Weatherington and I will be visiting the east coast CVICs the second week of January. I will then visit west coast CVICs the last week in January. **Ask Questions, Marines!** Don't assume or believe rumors and myths----get the straight scoop from your SNCOs and Officers.

Semper Fidelis, MSgt Mattocks

Equipment & Systems Procurement CW04 Wayne Golwitzer
VI Project Officer, Marine Corps Systems Command



Observations, Hats Off to the Meat Eaters, and would you like Ranch or Blue Cheese with that Salad.

MARCORSYSCOM, Quantico VA. Again we enter another year under the gun here at Visual Information Systems. Since our inception at MARCORSYSCOM we have been dealing with real-world situations, first Enduring Freedom and now a possible war with

Iraq. I would like to take this opportunity to pass on some observations from a programmatic view.

It wasn't long ago that the 4600 field faced elimination, 1997 for those of you who remember. It simply amazes me that today I have the pleasure of sitting in a billet where I can sit back and see just how important we are, how long we had been forgotten about, and just how important you are to the mission of the Corps. There isn't a day that goes by that the 4600 field isn't the subject of discussion somewhere within MARCORSYSCOM, Plans, Policies and Operations, or Headquarters Marine Corps. Most importantly, your performance, and our efforts have made us a true player in the world of the operators.

We have been working on a system called the Tactical Imagery Production Systems or TIPS. This system was conceived and developed from an initial requirement for a more mobile tactical imaging system, and on 27 December, we were approved to move forward on this system six years ahead of schedule. As a matter of fact, 1st Marine Division felt it so important that it made their list of "essential to go to war" items that was sent to MARCORSYSCOM and 2nd Marine Division followed suit shortly after. Not only was this system "essential", but it's need has grown to a critical importance since October of 2002, so critical that it was elevated to a status of a "Required to go to war" item. Well done I MEF. Your proactive approach and "can do" attitude has done more for your field and the VIS program than you could ever imagine. *Meat!*

Reality Check: A couple of weeks ago I sent an email out regarding the 2005 Base Closure Committee, and the list of bases that may be impacted. I would **STRONGLY** (Stomping Foot) urge you to keep an eye on this at your level. I had a whole bunch of email returns "deleted without being read." We have a very aggressive Secretary Defense and a Congress that need to find money to buy advanced technologies for DoD and the service components. The Marine Corps has 40% more base and facilities capacity than required leaving us in a tight spot. In addition to this the way the Marine Corps will fight wars in the future is rapidly becoming reality i.e. Sea Basing, Forward Deployed Depots etc. BRAC 2005 will be the largest base closure and realignment ever. History means nothing at this point and just because it's been there for years doesn't mean it will be there tomorrow, and that is a guarantee. MARCORSYSCOM is keeping a very close eye on this effort. Once I have the list from my Strategic Business Team I will forward to the fleet. *Don't be the leaf eater here!*

Shout Out:

1. To my two Project Officers SSgt. Mark Maynard and SSgt. Jim Frank for their work on making TIPS a reality and a host of other things, while I was engaged in justifying Unfunded Priority List for Congressional Plus-up money. *Meat!*
2. TMDE-South MCLB Albany for their dedication to getting TIPS done and all components into the system to include drafting a SL-3 for TIPS in less than 48 hours. *Meat!*

Procurement. Due to the work up for potential contingencies, all procurement for garrison equipment is suspended until further notice. If procurement for your command was executed prior to this edition of the Flash it is coming your way. If not and this

includes the garrison computer buys, it is on hold! If you have questions contact me at DSN 378-3255. The last 300 yards to contact-----tactical first!

Availability: The Visual Information Team will be on the road extensively over the next several months conducting Field Users Tests (FUT) on the TIPS at Barstow and other undisclosed locations. SSgt. Frank will be attending SNCOA 8 Jan-28Feb leaving SSgt. Maynard and me to hold down the fort while on the road. We will be checking email daily, and I will post a phone number where I can be reached at Barstow as well as my cell phone number. If we don't get back to you right away don't be offended.